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and, as the British had already taken possession of the island by settlement and by garrison, the vigilant old soldier resolved to allow no such "invasion," and therefore, proceeded to take forcible possession of the fine isle.

The first discovery of the straits of San Juan de Fuca has been one of the most memorable in the whole history of questionable record. Humboldt, in his essay on New Spain, said, in regard to the Spanish claim:

"We do not allude to the apocryphal voyages of Maldonado, Juan de Fuca, and Bartolome Fonte, to which, for a long time, only too much importance was given. The most part of the impostures published under the names of these three navigators, were destroyed by the laborious and learned discussions of several officers of the Spanish Marine. Notwithstanding all my inquiries, I could never discover in New Spain a single document in which the pilot De Fuca or the Admiral Fonte were named."

This seemed to satisfy the British public; but it was not a just record, since recent investigation has proven, almost to a certainty, the truth of the narrative of discovery made by the old Greek pilot, De Fuca, as given in the work, "The Pilgrims," by Samuel Purchas, London, 1625, wherein the "note" of Michael Lock is quoted at length. Lock stated the matter thus:

"He [the old Greek pilot] said that shortly after the said voyage was so illended, the said viceroy of Mexico sent him out again in 1592, with a small caraval and a pinnace, armed with mariners only, to follow the said voyage for the discovery of the straits of Anian, and the passage thereof into the sea, which they call the North Sea, all along the coast of Nova Spania and California, and the Indies, now called North America (all which voyage he signified to me in a great map, and a sea card of mine own, which I laid before him), until he came to the latitude of 47 degrees; and that there finding that the land trended north and northeast, with a broad inlet of sea, between forty-seven and forty-eight degrees of latitude, he entered thereunto, sailing therein more than twenty days, and finding that land trending still sometime northwest, and northeast, and north and also east, and south-eastward, and very much broader sea than was at the said entrance, and that he passed by divers islands in that sailing; and

that at the entrance of this said strait there is on the northwest coast thereof, a great headland or island, with an exceeding high pinnacle, or spired rock, like a pillar thereupon.

"Also, he said that he went on land in divers places, and that he saw some people on land clad in beasts' skins; and that the land is very fruitful, and rich of gold, silver, pearls, and other things, like Nova Spania. And also he said that he being entered thus far into the said strait, and being come into the North Sea already, and finding the sea wide enough everywhere, and to be about thirty or forty leagues wide in the mouth of the straits where he entered, he thought he had now well discharged his office; and that not being armed to resist the force of the savage people that might happen, he therefore set sail, and returned homeward again toward Nova Spania, where he arrived at Acapulco, Anno 1592."

This record, made in 1596, by an Englishman who had seen De Fuca, conversed with him, and had taken notes of the Greek's narrative, is too near the absolute truth to be doubted as authentic data of the discoveries made. Why Humboldt should have thrown such general discredit upon this evidence, we can not learn, for it can scarcely be possible that he was ignorant of so important a narrative as that given by Lock, and quoted in the work of Purchas. The reader will observe, besides the geographical data given, the old Greek states that he "went on land in divers places" and found it fruitful and "rich of gold, silver, pearls, and other things like Nova Spania" (Mexico). He probably landed at the mouth of Frazer's river, and obtained his evidences of the auriferous character of the country. The "pearls" are found in the muscle (Neytilus) and clam (Lutranos) of California—larger, though of coarser and inferior quality to the "Jersey pearls," of which we have recently heard so much. Beyond all doubt, this is the first record of the richness of the country north of Nova Spania, and we can but wonder that it has received so little attention. Greenhow, in his "California and Oregon" (4th edition), quotes the "note" of Michael Lock at length, and this is the only mention of the curious record we remember to have met with in our literature.

While on this question of early discovery we may refer to the renewal of the claims of Americus Vesputius as first dis-

coverer of America. The Spanish historians, after the generation of Columbus and his son Diego, with Herrera at their head, claiming the honor for Columbus, have so long been regarded as true chroniclers, that even Mr. Irving falls into their way of thinking to give his hero, Columbus, all the honors of the first discovery of this continent. The late Baron Humboldt brought to light the fact that the word "America" was given to the continent by cotemporary French and German writers without the knowledge of Americus—probably because they first heard of it through his popular reports of his own explorations to the Duke of Lorraine and other correspondents, for, with superior literary attainments, he confessedly had a more decided itch for writing than any of his companions. This would hardly have been the case (in the naming of the continent America) when the fame of Columbus was all through France, if that worthy navigator was the discoverer of the continent proper. Columbus did *not* visit the continent until 1498; it is claimed by the friends of Americus Vesputius that *he* visited and explored the continent from Honduras to New Foundland in the year 1497. Mr. Vanhagen, Brazilian minister to Berlin, has taken up the question, and gallantly comes to rescue the name and fame of Americus from the old slanders of the Spanish chroniclers. His work, however, leaves the question an open one, for there appears, as yet, no way in which to reconcile the discrepancies of dates which now exist on the subject.

EDWARD SHEFFIELD BARTHOLOMEW.

By Mrs. Lydia H. Sigourney.

'Tis not for song to give thee fame,
O artist! praised by all,
For breathing marble guards thy name
In many a lordly hall;

Yet tender Friendship's lambent lay
May trace thy varied lot
For those who saw thee day by day
And understood thee not;

Nor marked the new-fledged eagle's pain
That, fired with sunward trust,
Intensely struggled with the chain
That darkly bound to dust.

But, musing on thy glorious power
Thus quenched in early years,
We mourn thee in our secret bower
With stifled sound of tears.

And more than all thy loss to Art,
The pride of Freedom's shore,
We mourn the noble, loving heart
That beats for us no more.